Living standards of women

†431. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made through National Family Health Survey regarding living standard of women and their getting married at a young age ;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) the details of measures Government is considering to take on the basis of this survey?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) The National Family Health Survey (NFHS 3) (2005-06) does not contain any gender disaggregated data on living standards. However, it does contain information on the age of marriage.

(b) Some of the findings of NFHS 3 can be summarised as follows:

(1) The median age at first marriage among women is 17.2 years.

(2) The median age at marriage for women in the age group of 25-47 is only 16.8 years,

(3) In the 13 years since NFHS-1 (1992-93), the median age and marriage among women in the age group of 25-49 has risen by less than one year;

(4) There has been a one third decline in the proportion of women in the age group of 20-24, who are married before the age of 15.

(c) The Government uses data from National Family Health Surveys and others sources for formulation of policies, programmes & schemes.

Malnutrition among children

432. SHR1MATI SHOBHANA BHART1A:
SHRI N.K. SINGH :
Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that malnutrition among children has increased in some States ;

(b) if so, the details thereof: and

(c) whether, according to the National Family Health Survey-III, it has been revealed that malnutrition among children in some States is at an alarming level ; and

(d) if so, the steps Government proposes to address the problem of malnutrition in an effective way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) to (c) The undernutrition amongst children below 3 years has reduced from 42.7% in 1998-99 (NFHS-2) to 40.4% in 2005-06 (NFHS-3). However, data on State-wise comparison of under nutrition between NFHS-2 & NFHS-3 is not available.

† Orignial notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The State-wise data on under nutrition for children below 5 years of age is annexed are given in the enclosed Statement-I (See below).

(d) The problem of malnutrition is multi-dimensional and inter-generational in nature, the determinants of which include household food insecurity, illiteracy and lack of awareness especially in women, access to health services, availability of safe drinking water, sanitation and environmental conditions and purchasing power etc. Besides early age at marriage of girls, teenage pregnancies resulting in low birth weight of the newborns, poor breastfeeding practices, poor complementary feeding practices, ignorance about nutritional needs of infants and young children and repeated infections further aggravate the malnutrition amongst children. Tackling malnutrition amongst children requires an integrated approach. Prevention of early marriage, appropriate spacing in Pregnancy, better Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices including exclusive breast feeding, age appropriate complementary feeding, better hygienic conditions, immunization, Vitamin A supplementation, deworming, Oral Rehydration, Zinc supplementation, during diarrhea, timely and quality feeding for acute malnutrition conditions, improved nutrition for adolescent girls, prevention of anemia, improved food and nutrient intake during pregnancy and lactation, better information and awareness about nutritional needs & behaviors and prevention and control of diseases would need to be promoted for mitigating the impact of malnutrition. All these need to be addressed in a holistic manner by effective intersectoral coordination, convergence and improved systems of delivery of services under different schemes and programmes of central and state governments.

The Ministry of Women & Child Development is addressing the problem of malnutrition among children below 6 years through the ICDS in all States/ UTs. The scheme, *inter-alia*, provides a component of Supplementary Nutrition. The Govt. has since increased the cost of Supplementary Nutrition as well as nutritional norms for different categories of beneficiaries as follows:

Category	Revised Rates (per beneficiary per day)	Revised Nutritional Norms	
		Calories(Kcal)	Protein (g)
(i) Children (6 months to 72 months)	Rs. 4.00	500	12-15
(ii) Severely malnourished Children (6 months-72 months)	Rs. 6.00	800	20-25
(iii) Pregnant women and Nursing Mothers	Rs. 5.00	600	18-20

Besides the above, various other Ministries are implementing a number of schemes aimed at improving the nutritional status of children details of which are given in the enclosed Statement-II.

Statement

State-wise. Percentage of Underweight children under age five years - NFHS III (2005-06)

Sl.No	State	Children under 5 yrs who are underweight
1	Madhya Pradesh	60.0
2	Jharkhand	56.5
3	Bihar	55.9
4	Meghalaya	48.8
5	Chhattisgarh	47.1
6	Gujarat	44.6
7	Uttar Pradesh	42.4
8	Orissa	40.7
9	Rajasthan	39.9
10	Haryana	39.6
11	Tripura	39.6
12	West Bengal	38.7
13	Uttaranchal	38.0
14	Karnataka	37.6
15	Maharashtra	37.0
16	Himachal Pradesh	36.5
17	Assam	36.4
18	Arunachal Pradesh	32.5
19	Andhra Pradesh	32.5
20	Tamil Nadu	29.8
21	Delhi	26.1
22	Jammu & Kashmir	25.6
23	Goa	25.0
24	Punjab	24.9
25	Kerala	22.9
26	Manipur	22.1
27	Mizoram	19.9
28	Sikkim	19.7
	India	42.5

Statement-II

Schemes and Programmes to improve the Nutritional Status of Women and Children

(i) Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls in 51 districts to provide free food grains to undernourished adolescent girls by Ministry of Women and Child Development.

(ii) To promote appropriate infant and young child feeding practices, the National Guidelines on Infant and Young Child Feeding have been developed and disseminated all over the country. Increased emphasis is given to:

a. Initiation of breastfeeding immediately after birth, preferabiy within one hour.

b. Exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months

c. implementing the Infant Milk Substitute (IMS) Act.

(iii) Nutrition and Health Education: Food and Nutrition Board of the Ministry of Women & Child Development is engaged in advocacy, trainings and generating awareness on important nutritton issues among different level of functionaries and the masses.

(iv) National Programme for Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid Day Meal Scheme) by the Department of School Elementary Education & Literacy;

(v) Reproductive & Child Health Programme under the National Rural Health Mission being implemented by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has schemes for prevention of micronutrient malnutrition as below:

- Iron and Folic acid supplementation for children, adolescents, pregnant and lactating women.
- Vitamin-A supplementation for children upto 5 years.
- National Iodine Deficiency Control Programme.

(vi) Targeted Public Distribution System, Antodaya Anna Yojna and Annapurna Scheme by the Department of Food & Consumer Affairs.

Misrepresentation of women

433. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA :
SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI :

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Commission for Women has suggested amendments in laws to prevent indecent representation of women in mass-media, including T.V and film: and;

(b) if so, the suggestions made and Governmentus response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.